



# Research Scientist



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I make computer models of the chemical and physical makeup of the regions around new stars. Basically, I "teach" the computer how gases near the stars heat up, move, and change. I then compare the computer model to the observations of other scientists to see if they match up. I also teach classes on astronomy at San Jose State University.

## Areas of expertise:

- The formation of stars

## How I first became interested in this profession:

I liked the space program when I was in grade school. Looking at the stars always fascinated me.

## What helped prepare me for this job:

Math and physics courses have been a big help for me. Also, good teachers helped prepare me by teaching me how to think and by showing me the kinds of jobs I can have once I got these skills.

## My role models or inspirations:

I was greatly inspired by my teachers and professors. They had a passion for science, and they loved their jobs.

## My education and training:

- M.S. and Ph.D. in Astrophysics, Johns Hopkins University
- B.A. in Physics, Middlebury College

## My career path:

- Researcher at NASA on the National Research Council Fellowship for three years
- Assistant professor at San Jose State University for two years

## What I like about my job:

I like being able to combine teaching with exploring things that nobody's ever seen before.

## What I don't like about my job:

I don't like the business end of things like faculty meetings and/or anything that takes me away from teaching or research.

## My advice to anyone interested in this occupation:

Do well in math and physics. It's easier to do well if it's something you love. You should also be pretty comfortable with computers.